

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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INTERIOR ANNOUNCES "NO-HUNTING" ZONE FOR CROSS CREEKS REFUGE, TENNESSEE

Designation of a 725-acre "no-hunting" area along the Cumberland River near Clarksburg, Tenn., was announced today by the Department of the Interior. The area lies within and adjacent to the Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge, which is on both sides of the Cumberland River in Stewart County.

The Cross Creeks Refuge contains 8,905 acres of land acquired by the Corps of Engineers as part of the Barkley Dam and Lake Barkley Project. The refuge is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife under a license from the Corps of Engineers. A public land order transferring administration of the area to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is pending.

The Barkley Dam impoundment is expected to cause some loss of waterfowl use on the Kentucky Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge, which is 25 miles from Cross Creeks. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife plans to develop the Cross Creeks Refuge to attract these birds.

Bureau officials, however, feel that management efforts to build a sizable waterfowl population at Cross Creeks will be continually hampered unless State lands and waters along the Cumberland River in the refuge are closed to hunting of migratory birds. The Tennessee Game and Fish Commission favors closing the area.

A notice of intention to close the area was published in the Federal Register August 7, 1963, to allow a 30-day period for public comments. None was received and the Department has now designated the "no-hunting" zone, to become effective 30 calendar days following final publication in the Federal Register.

The closing order will further the conservation program under Migratory Bird Treaties with Great Britain and Mexico. These treaties obligate the United States to take measures insuring the preservation of migratory birds and to establish refuge zones where the taking of migratory birds is prohibited.

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